

VENEZUELA

SECTOR: Planning and Reform

PROJECT NAME: Support for Civil Society Organization Initiatives and Management
1045/OC-VE

TOTAL COST: \$20 million

FINANCING:

IDB	\$12 million
LOCAL	\$ 8 million

DATE OF APPROVAL: October 1, 1997

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The main objective of the program is to create and develop partnership arrangements between the public and private sectors and civil society to fund projects and activities to be developed and executed by civil society organizations (CSOs).

The program focuses specifically on: (a) fostering the development of partnership arrangements involving the public and private sectors and CSOs in the funding and management of projects and other activities, (b) building capacity in the CSOs to operate projects and activities to assist excluded groups, and (c) working with CSOs to design and carry out projects and activities aimed at improving access to social services among population groups living in poverty and currently excluded from such services.

The program consists of three components: (a) CSO management; (b) projects and activities; and (c) external monitoring and evaluation.

The component for CSO management will have two subcomponents: (a) support for preparation and management; and (b) institutional strengthening and coordination. These operations consist of building technical and organizational capabilities in CSOs, so they can participate fully in the partnership model. The focus is to help CSOs strengthen their capacity to prepare proposals and meet the basic eligibility requirements to act as executing units. The focus of the second subcomponent will be to strengthen CSOs to fulfill their social advocacy role and promote closer relations between CSOs, private sector entities and governmental organizations.

The second component will expand and strengthen social projects and activities. It focuses on productive activities such as job training for persons in nontraditional areas; support for families in precarious situations; educational services for persons without access to primary education, and for those who are illiterate; and health services for persons living in high risk areas. Initiatives developed by the target groups, themselves, and proposals put forward by CSOs in areas identified will be funded.

The third component will monitor and evaluate the activities mentioned above by: (a) gathering data on the first two components; (b) disseminating

information and sharing experiences at the national and international levels; and (c) providing mid-term and final evaluations of the program.

CONSULTANTS:

Short-term consultants will be hired to undertake technical support activities for project preparation, management training, financial administration, development planning, and fundraising. Consultants will also be required to provide institutional strengthening and management support, including: (a) conducting workshops to share experiences; (b) supporting document publication; (c) training in conducting studies and generating ?lessons learned.?

Under the projects and activities component, consultants will be hired for: (a) training (vocational, for women in nontraditional areas, and for indigenous groups); and (b) technical assistance in productive activities, activities to support families, education and health.

An independent entity will be contracted to prepare a mid-term evaluation to: (a) provide feedback for design and development of the second stage of the program; (b) provide for adjustments to the types of projects and activities eligible for funding under the first two components; (c) measure and disseminate findings of the short-term impact on target groups; and (d) develop an impact-assessment methodology which will serve as the basis for the final evaluation of the program. That firm would also: (a) gather data and information on components one and two; (b) disseminate information and facilitate the exchange of experiences; and (c) conduct the final evaluation of the program.

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT:

The program will finance the purchase of computer equipment, communications systems, basic furnishings, and other equipment.

CIVIL WORKS:

Small rehabilitation and repair works will be financed in the productive, education and health sectors (using restricted bidding or direct contracting).

EXECUTING AGENCY:

Ministerio de la Familia
Fondo de Inversión Social de Venezuela (FONVIS)
Av. Principal de los Ruices con Tercera Transversal
Edificio Lanex, Piso 2
Caracas, Venezuela
Tel: (58-2) 238-2004/4750/8260
Fax: (58-2) 238-7051
Contact: Arq. Jesús Robles
Director Ejecutivo de FONVIS